

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently amended) A method of ~~preventing or~~ treating pancreatitis which method comprises administering an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist at an amount effective to ~~prevent or~~ treat pancreatitis to the subject in need of such ~~prevention or~~ treatment.

15. (Currently amended) The ~~preventive or~~ therapeutic method according to claim 14 in which the IL-6 antagonist is an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

16. (Currently amended) The ~~preventive or~~ therapeutic method according to claim 15 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

17. (Currently amended) The ~~preventive or~~ therapeutic method according to claim 16 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against human IL-6 receptor.

18. (Currently amended) The ~~preventive or~~ therapeutic method according to claim 16 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against mouse IL-6 receptor.

19. (Currently amended) The ~~preventive or~~ therapeutic method according to claim 15 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

20. (Currently amended) The ~~preventive or~~ therapeutic method according to claim 17 in which the monoclonal antibody directed against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

21. (Currently amended) The ~~preventive or~~ therapeutic method according to claim 18 in which the monoclonal antibody directed against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.

22. (Currently amended) The ~~preventive or~~ therapeutic method according to claim 15 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric antibody or a humanized antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

23. (Currently amended) The ~~preventive or~~ therapeutic method according to claim 22 in which the humanized antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~preventive or~~ therapeutic method according to claim 14 in which the pancreatitis is acute pancreatitis.

25. (Currently amended) A method of ~~suppressing~~ **reducing** pancreatic edema in pancreatitis which method comprises administering an IL-6 antagonist to the subject.

26. (Currently amended) A method of ~~suppressing~~ **reducing** pancreatic edema which method comprises administering an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor at an amount effective to prevent or treat pancreatic edema to the subject in need of suppressing pancreatic edema.

Claims 27 to 39 (Cancelled).